THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) As per the latest index of industrial production for the months of April-October for the year 2005-06, the percentage growth in "Basic Metal and Alloy Industries" sub-sector during the said period has been 15.8%. As per available information, the wholesale price index for the metallic minerals group rose from 333.2 on 2.4.2005 to 494.9 on 29.10.2005. Companies are expected to declare dividends as per the relevant provisions of the companies Act, 1956.

Gold Production

2829. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of the indigenous production of gold per annum and the extent to which it meets the domestic requirement;

(b) the main sources of gold in the country; and

(c),the steps taken by Government to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines, the total production of gold ore during 2004-05 was 590 thousand tonnes with an average grade of 6.08 grams per tonne of gold. The total production of primary gold during 2004-05 was 3526 Kg. gold in the country is mainly consumed in unorganized sector. Therefore, there are no firm estimates of consumption of gold in the country. Very rough estimates suggest that consumption of gold in India is about 800 tonnes per annum.

(b) At present Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited (HGML), a Government of Karnataka undertaking, is the main producer of gold in the country.

(c) Government of India has issued a number of reconnaissance

permits for exploration of gold. HGML has informed that the company has taken steps like modernization/expansion of its mines and mills, deepening of shafts, exploratory surface/underground diamond drilling, opening up of new satellite mines, searching new gold bearing areas under the reconnaissance permit/prospecting licenses etc., in order to boost production of gold.

New Mines

2830. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had found new mines across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the revenue to be generated therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 65 new mines on major minerals were found during the year 2004-05.

(c) The revenue to be generated cannot be assessed at this moment. However, the revenue accrued on account of royalty is collected and retained by respective State Governments.

2831. Cancelled

Status of proposal for Welfare of disabled

t2832. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases pertaining to the disabled people sent to the State Government of Chhattisgarh during January, 2002 to October,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.